

Crosby Post APRIL 1963

Bing groans
again

Rosemary Clooney, Carol Lawrence, Johnny Mercer and Bing's sons, Lindsay, Dennis and Phillip.

NEW SERIES

1963



Crosby squeezed an accordion in 1934 film, "We're Not Dressing"



Bigger than ever in 1940, Crosby made filmusical with Gloria Jean



ling and Connee rehearse Yes Indeed which they waxed for Decca.



THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY (founded March 1950)

Honorary President; Mr Bing Crosby. * The Crosby Office
* 9229 Sunset Boulevard
Hon Vice-President; Mr Larry Crosby. * Los Angeles 69 - U.S.A.

Active Co-President's: Frank Murphy and Jack Manners
all comm's to 8, Jardin Street, Canberwell, London S. E. 5.

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3004 W. Wells Avenue, Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Publicity Officer; Les Phythian
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Photo and Disc Section; Bill Hall,
11, Chichester Street, Gateshead 8, Co Durham

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New York, USA; and the CROSBY BROTHERS FAN CLUB, President, Miss
Priscilla Keornig, 349 Banks Street, San Francisco 10 California
U.S.A.

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An X here..... Signifies that your renewal is now due. Please mail
this direct to Jack Manners (address above;

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HIGHLIGHTS CROSBY POST APRIL 1963 Fourteenth Year

Page 4..Bing's Choice 1945.....Ken Mc Manus.
5..Harry Barris - An Appreciation.....Les Phythian.
6..Review - The Bing show on ITV.....Fred Reynolds.
7..Alternative Takes.....Bob Roberts.
8..The 22nd Crosby Pro-Am.....Priscilla Keornig.
10..Croz-Talk.....Jack Manners.
11..Bing and the frog.....Paul Anticevitch
13..A personal letter from Larry Crosby
14..Spotlight on Discs.....Eric Griffiths.
15..Crosby Chatter.....Les Gaylor.
17..Top Ten Spot.
18..The Groaner in the groove.....Frank Murphy.
20.. 21 years of Hope.....supplied by Paul Anticevitch.

April 1st. 1963

Its really amazing, the amount of material that reaches me for each issue of Crosby Post - I wish it were possible to print everything, but we have to watch, not only the balance of contents, but also the number of pages used. By sticking at the 20 page mark, I find we can just make the 2½ rate under printed paper and as the next figure is 4d, you can well imagine how careful we must be - It must also be remembered that for the yearly sub of 10/- we print 6 times yearly as against most clubs 4 and sometimes 3 times - However, enough of facts and figures for the present;

On Sunday last, Alma and I had the pleasure of a visit from member Ken Mc Manus and we had a thoroughly good time in Kens company, in the afternoon, local members, Bill Hall, John Maughan and Bill Bell called in and over tea, we had quite a natter and Crosby session.

I set Ken off at the station on his way home to London this morning and hope that sometime this year I'll be able to take of his kind invite that I return his visit by a trip to his home - I must also visit with my good friends Bob and Vera Roberts this year and during my trip South, hope it will be possible to meet our London area members

This months cover represents our most ambitious effort yet and I feel its turned out very well indeed - The photos incidentally were supplied by Stan White who has also sent me a great selection from which I shall make periodic selections - There's a great one of Bing and Louis Armstrong, also with Al Jolson - so look out for some treats in the future - and our thanks to Stan for being so helpful.

Whilst talking about Stan, I must make mention of what sounds to be a really great project - "GLOBAL TAPE FRIENDS" which Stan as President, has formed as a medium to enable tape recorder owners to meet others through the medium of tape recorded letters. Stan will send interested parties a duplicated newsletter giving full details on request.

Les Phythian passes on the information that George O' Reilly has severed connections with the Trans Atlantic Record Agency, Dublin but he retains his offices at 5 Tara Str, and Miss Maureen Field continues as George's private secretary. All orders etc should be directed to Mr John P Fitzgerald who is now in charge at TARA.

And so, on to the Post, I'd like to endorse Jack's comments re your continued support - we've a great and loyal group these days and in my regular letters to our old friend Dot Hardiman we often comment on the old days, which we so often a trial so difficult to continue under. We've a long way to go yet before we reach the position, I for one wants the club to be in, but with our present rate of progress maintained, we're on the right track. Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Bill Hall as Officer in charge of "Photo and Disc section" all orders in this dept should now be addressed to Bill.

Best wishes, Bing-cerely - Frank;

Digging through my files for information for a future article for Crosby Post I came across a cutting of unusual interest.

Whilst making "Road To Utopia" Bing was interviewed on the set by American Jazz critic and journalist Dave Dexter and during the interview Dave asked Bing the very leading question. "What are your favourite dozen discs?" - listed below is Bing's choice.

- (1) "Flamingo" by Duke Ellington
- (2) "Snowfall" by Claude Thornhill
- (3) "Fare thee well to Harlem" by Paul Whiteman-trombone solo by Jack Teagarden.
- (4) any Mildred Bailey record.
- (5) "Song of India" by Tommy Dorsey.
- (6) "Am I blue" by Ethel Waters.
- (7) "Rhapsody in blue" by Glenn Miller.
- (8) "Hard hearted Hannah" by Ray Mc Kinley
- (9) "G. I. Jive"
- (10) "South rampart street parade" by Bob Crosby's Bobcats.
- (11) "Singin' the blues" by Frankie Trumbauer-trumpet solo by Bix Beiderbecke.
- (12) "Begin the beguine" by Arty Shaw.

After reading Bing's list over I did a little more digging back and made a list of Bing recordings picked by musicians through the years - here now is that list; -

- Eddie Miller who for many years was the lead tenor sax with the "Bob Cats" - his choice - "MAYBE"
- Earl Hines the great jazz pianist who starred in the Louis "Hot Five" recordings of 1928 - his choice - "JUST ONE MORE CHANCE"
- Zutty Singleton the drummer who played with men of such stature as Jimmy Noone, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong (again? - he's my favourite next to Bing. Zutty's choice - "FROM MONDAY ON"
- Johnny Mercer I don't think this gentleman needs any intro from me. Just listen to "Skylark" or "Blues in the night" by Bing - Mr Mercer wrote them and lots more. - his choice - "WHEN YOU'RE AWAY" and "FROM MONDAY ON"

So I reached the end of the list, feeling very pleased with myself at my bit of research because out of all the 12 discs chosen by about 100 well known American musicians as favourites, Bing was one of the only vocalists listed. All other records chosen were big band swing or dixieland groups. Please remember that this was culled from magazines of 1943 - 1946 - When one sees similar sorts of 'blind fold feats' today vocalists are out altogether - in some cases these days it is just as well

Club members who are searching for Bing 78's should send a 'wants list' to Mr Terence Thompson, 180 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent.

A brief report in the "Melody Maker" for 22nd December last announced the death in Burbank, California, of Harry Barris.

As most readers will know, back in Bing's formative years, when he and Al Rinker were struggling to make their mark as a duo, it was the ebullient Harry Barris (a walking compendium of current jazz licks and 'hot' breaks) who combined his talents with theirs to form the now celebrated Paul Whiteman Rhythm Boys.

Long after the Crosby name had become a legend and the Whiteman era just a nostalgic memory, Bing's association with Barris was maintained, the irrepressible Harry making memorable appearances in two of Bing's great movies, "Rhythm On The River" and "Birth Of The Blues" - To the best of my knowledge, the last time they worked together was on a broadcast marking Paul Whiteman's 50th Anniversary; when Bing, Al and Harry revived The Rhythm Boys for the occasion to sing a fine, happy version of one of their earliest successes "Mississippi Mud".

Harry Barris was the composer of (among many others) "Mississippi Mud", "It must be true", "Wrap your troubles in dreams" and "I surrender dear" - It is interesting to recall that he was inspired the last named tune while listening to Bing's whistled improvisation on the melody of "Lover come back to me"; this Barris promptly rotated and the result was "I surrender dear", one of the most durable songs he ever wrote.

With his passing an important link with Bing's early years is irrevocably broken; but it is certain that Harry Barris will always be remembered with affection by those to whom the Crosby saga provides a constant source of fascination and delight.

SCRAPBOOK CORNER.....Vera Roberts

CROSBY GETS THE CREDIT

article dated 14/9/57

There's a story behind the music behind the credits of "MAN ON FIRE" This is the title of the forthcoming MGM picture starring Bing Crosby and Inger Stevens. Though picturegoers will hear the title tune sung by Crosby during the 'produced by' preliminaries, Bing didn't in fact do any warbling for the film. Explanation? Producer Sol C Siegel at first brought in the Ames Brothers to do the credits title number and they did it well, but at about the same time the 'old groaner' decided to put the tune on a Capitol disc, and, when Sol Siegel heard the maestro's version he decided to record from the disc on to the film soundtrack. The Ames Brothers version wasn't jettisoned however, it was used later on in the picture. The number on the Capitol disc that Bing cut? CL 14761 and this record is something of a novelty for its not a case of being the disc from the soundtrack.

In May E.M.I. release a Columbia E.P. titled "ON THE SIDE SING SONG WITH REGINA DIXON" and for the 3rd time on a Dixon record, leading club member STAN WHITE writes the sleeve notes

THE BING SHOW ON ITV

Those of us who saw and enjoyed the TV show being recorded at Wembley on 12th Nov 1961 and, more recently witnessed the debate of its showing on ITV may be surprised to learn that the ITV tycoons and their producers really do care about the quality of their programmes. Proof of this is shown in the howls that have arisen now that the television bill, with its proposal to cull an extra £10 million a year from the ITV profits, has reached committee stage. It is indeed reported that Mr Bevins, the Postmaster General, may be sympathetic to their fears that the paring of ITV profits might in the process harm the standard of their programmes. The cunning Treasury, it is claimed, has given little thought to the effect on production.

So we can be assured that when nearly 15 minutes of the Crosby show was omitted, thereby completely ruining the continuity, quality was foremost in the minds of those who mattered. And who are we to doubt that two songs "Shiek of Araby" and the parody of "My fate is in your hands" were abandoned because they marred the production? Presumably too, the sketch with the Happy Wanderers and Ron Moody and the scene in the Magistrates court with Miles Malleon were sacrificed on the altar of High Quality. The very poor film copy that was used to display what was left of the show was obviously accepted in the knowledge that an extra polish would be given.

If, as I did, you had a sneaking suspicion that ITV didn't know the whereabouts of its own elbow, then perish the thought that the final song was somewhat inappropriate to the end of February and instead reflect that Christmas is only ten months away. Let us also, incidentally, congratulate ITV that they still have a first class copy of the revived Bing "Shell" advert film - not of course that one would suggest that they thought this more important.

So please Mr Bevins do not deprive the quality conscious ITV of their millions. Think how the viewers would suffer. Seriously though (in words from a rival firm) they're doing a grand job.

Mr Alan H Lurie, 22 St James Road, Salford 7, Lancs. has a few Bing L.P.'s E.P.'s 45's and between 200/300 78's of Bing for sale or exchange. or would like to get in touch with any members with a view to exchanging any numbers on tape. The selling price of the 78's are from 1/- to 4/- according to condition. All others are in mint condition. Alan would also like a list of other members spares as he still needs about 200 recordings for his personal Crosby collection

Will contributors please note that material for the next issue of Crosby Post (JUNE) must reach us by May 20th - we regret that material arriving after that date will not receive consideration

A few weeks ago I managed to obtain a most interesting Bing disc - an Italian Brunswick, No' 4903. The 'A' side has Bing singing that great recording he made 10.3.1934, "Little Dutch Mill". On the 'B' side was "Temptation" which Bing recorded almost a year earlier. "Temptation" has always been a favourite of mine and naturally I am very familiar with Bing's recording of this terrific number. When I first played this Italian disc I thought there was a slight difference between the way he sings it on the English releases, so I immediately checked the two recordings. I was thrilled to discover that the two discs were different...only slightly different, but nevertheless it was obvious that the Italian disc was a different take. Although the take number is not marked in the wax I believe it to be the 'B' master which was issued on American Brunswick many years ago. Here then are the differences.

TEMPTATIONMASTER IA 6922.10.1933

Take 'A' issued on Brunswick (English-1668
 Take 'B' " " " (Italian-4903

Compare the line "...I'm just a slave - only a slave..."

On the 'A' take Bing sings "...slave-only..." without any break between the two words.

On the 'B' take Bing sings "...slave only..." there is a distinct break between the two words.

There is also a very slight difference in the introduction at the beginning of the recording.

For those interested, "Temptation" has also been issued on the following discs:- Brunswick (USA) 6695; Melotone 13136; Okey 2877 Banner 33136; Romeo 2345; Perfect 13043; Oriole 2971; Conqueror 8372; Vocalion 2877; Columbia (USA) 4533M; Columbia (USA) 12502 Columbia (USA) 5-1167; Columbia (USA) 16105; Columbia (ENG) DB2056; Fontana (ENG) TFR6000; Columbia (AUST) DO1094; Columbia (JAPAN) M99; Columbia (INDIA) DB30097.

The other item for this issue is "Moonburn"

MOONBURNMASTER DIA 26213.11.1935

Take 'A' issued on Brunswick (ENG) 02144
 Bing sings..... "Moonburn it Joe - lightly - dream it up -
mellow...mellow...."

Take 'B' issued on Decca (USA) DL4251 and BING 2 ("Bing's Holly")
 Bing sings.... "Yes, Moonburn it Joe...sweetly, tenderly..."
 and "Truck on down...dream it up...."

"Moonburn" was also issued on Decca (USA) 617; Decca (USA) 11007;
 Decca (USA) DL6009; Brunswick (ENG) 2313; Brunswick (ENG) 1A8723;
 Decca (AUST) Y5052;
 Until the next issue of Crosby Post...happy listening....Bob....

Featuring Priscilla's
on the spot report of the
1963 - 22nd Crosby Pro-Am.

Priscilla J. Koernig
Crosby Brothers Fan Club Pres;
Club Crosby (USA) West Coast
Representative.

Quite sometime ago I promised Frank and Jack I'd write an article for the Crosby Post and during my spare moments I'd sit down and think to myself, "What am I going to write about??? Believe me, its not the lack of material that stumped me, but, which topic was I going to choose?"

I could write about the time I first saw Bing - 1948 at San-Mateo High School (my good ol' alma mater) when we came to watch Gary play football on the Bellarmine Team, opposing San Mateo. That was the only time I was unloyal to my team by sitting by Bing instead of in the San Mateo cheering section.

I could write about the second time I saw him tape one of his radio shows in San Francisco (1950) and then there was the time he did a golf match benefit in Fairfax (just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco) This was in 1957.

And then there were the other numerous times since 1959 that I've seen him at his own golf tournament at Pebble Beach, California. I know you'd also be very interested in hearing about my friendship with Phil, Dennis and Lin.

After quite a bit of thought I decided to wait until after the 1963 - 22nd Annual National Pro-Am Golf Championship, from which the net profits go to charity, The Bing Crosby Youth Fund. That treasured weekend was January 19 & 20th 1963.

My girl friend Nancy and I left San Francisco about 7 O'clock on Saturday morning and drove down to Monterey, which is about III miles from here. After stopping for breakfast at Uncle John's Pancake House, we drove on to the hotel where we'd be staying that night. After checking in and unpacking, we went to the Pebble Beach Golf Course.

On Thursday Friday and Saturday the tournament is played on three courses, Pebble Beach, Monterey Peninsula Country Club and Cypress Point Golf Course. Since portions of the tournament were to be televised Saturday besides Sunday, I figured that Bing would be at the Pebble Beach Course. So, we decided to spend both days at this course. On the last day of the tournament (Sunday) the low 50 teams, plus ties and pros in the money, play only at Pebble Beach.

We walked to the 16th hole to start following the golfers. To our luck, there goes Bing riding by us in one of the golf tourney cars. So, we followed him to the 17th and 18th holes, when Bing was finished telecasting he started walking to his car which was parked near the 18th hole. Nancy went up to him to ask for his autograph but he told her he was sorry he didn't have the time right now as he was due to meet someone. So, she pushes the book to me and tells me to get his autograph as she thought he'd take the time for me - sure enough he did.

We went back to our hotel to change for dinner. We dined at the 'Outrigger', a very nice Polynesian resaurant on Cannery Row near the Wharf in Monterey. We had planned to take in a movie that night Gary's latest movie, "Tow Tickets To Paris" was playing at the Monterey theatre; but, alas, we were told his picture would not be

..... shown that night, only for the matinee's. So, we said to ourselves, "we'll catch it when it comes to San Francisco". We awoke early Sunday morning so that we could be at Pebble Beach no later than 9 o'clock. We were going to have breakfast at the Del Monte Lodge (overlooking the 18th hole at Pebble Beach) this year. What a terrific selection of food on their breakfast menu. After we had gotten our coffee and orange juice who walks in to sit at the table with us but Gordon Mac Rae.

We decided to stay mostly around the 18th hole today because we figured that's where Bing would be. Sure enough, there he was! I was constantly taking movies of him - every time he'd hear my movie camera going, he'd glance my way. I've heard that Bing never forgets a person after meeting them (I introduced myself to him at the 1959 tournament) I really believe this now because I'm sure he knows me. He came over to talk to someone not too far from where I was standing. I didn't want to interrupt him then, but as he started to go back towards the tent where they were broadcasting, I called him. He half turned around, but kept walking. When he got to the tent he turned round and smiled. As he was leaving I asked if he would pose for a picture with me. He said "Sure". He even had to ask a little boy to step aside so that my girl friend could take the picture of us together. Since Bing had left the 18th hole, Nancy and I decided we better go have some lunch - I was so 'shock up' by that time, I wouldn't eat much.

Besides Bing, we saw, Larry Crosby, John Raitt, Phil Harris, Robert Sterling, Anne Jeffries, Gary Morton and Lucille Ball, Ernie Ford, James Garner, Ray Milland, Fred MacMurray, and quite a few of the 'golf greats' - the weather during the tourney was the best its ever been for January.

We walked up the golf course after lunch and found Bing at the 16th hole. We followed him to the 17th and 18th holes; but, it was getting near the end of the tourney and the crowds of people were getting bigger and bigger. I think the beautiful weather brought more people than usual. I couldn't take any more movies without getting too many heads in the foreground so we decided to start home for San Francisco ahead of most of the traffic.

I hope you have all enjoyed hearing about our memorable weekend at Bing's golf tournament. I can assure you that Nancy and I will never forget the 1963 golf weekend.....Priscilla.

Leading Scottish collector FRANK GRANT wishes to advise fellow club members of his new address which is.....
CROWN HOTEL - STRATHAVEN - SCOTLAND.

If you'd like your friend/s to receive a free copy of Crosby Post - please mail your instructions direct to Jack Manners.

Mr E Burnell, 529 High Rd, Wembley, Middlesex
 Mr R Chalmers, 22 Whinscott Rd, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hants
 Mr J Moore, 4 Tennant Str, South Shields, Co Durham.
 Mr K Mc Manus, 6 Beech Grove, New Malden, Surrey.
 Mr H Hanke, 26 Twydale Ave, Tividale, Tipton, Staffs.
 Mr J Doonan, 11 Orban Terr, Felling, Co Durham.
 Mr A Samet, 6347 S W 12th Str, West Miami, Florida, USA.
 Mr W Mc Ghei, 52 Ross Rd, Wallington, Surrey.

So far, 1963 has been a very good year for the club, we continue to enrol new members on a most prosperous basis and as Jack says in "Crozz-Talk", what is most important, we are retaining our established members on a more regular basis. Its a happy situation and we hope you will all continue to recommend your 'Crosby' friends to join our friendly circle. The immediate future calls for many exciting developments, all of which will eventually lead to our becoming the most active and successful club in the British Isles - We want to share our success with as many Bing fans as possible, so let's have a real boost in club membership during the next few months - If you can help distribute our official membership enrolment forms, we'd be happy to mail you a supply on request.

Its time now for Jack Manners to sign in for,.....

This month there's*	"C R O Z T A L K" *	Our regular bi-monthly
news of a club	=====	newsy round-up from our
meeting in LONDON *	-----	Jardin Str, Pres'

Here we are again and once more I must say that there are not enough hours in the day to keep on top of everything - my job, the club, home affairs etc, but its great fun and I would'nt have it otherwise.

I can tell by your letters, and in spite of Bing's quiet period the Society is in great form, and the most important thing to both Frank and myself is the fact that we are holding you our members. It was a bit alarming a few months ago, so many did not renew. But the story is much different now, just the odd one or two falling by the wayside. Actually it amazes me how or why any true Bing supporter can leave our circle - we are not perfect any of us, but surely the closeness of our association with Bing, Larry and the Crosby office, and each other, should be enough to overcome any of the little differences any of us may have, and once again I state quite genuinely if for any financial reason at renewal time you cannot make it, drop me a line and I'll organise something to help.

It would help and would laos be fair if when a member wishes to leave us, that member drops us a line telling us why and where we had fallen down - this could probably be something we could level out. I know this club business is all voluntary, but it would certainly be a point of honour with me to state my reasons if I wished to 'out'

Jack continues "CROZZTALK" on page 12

BING AND THE FROG

WRITING about Bing Crosby is a job for a historian or a mathematician, not a comedian. To record his early beginnings you have to consult old, old books, so let's skip the dust of antiquity and start with our first meeting.

Let's see — I was a boy scout and had helped an old lady across the street. It turned out to be Crosby. In a cracked voice he said: "I would give you a coin, young man, but I have just invested it."

That coin, which I didn't get, grew

BY BOB HOPE

pole at Del Mar race track. Crosby, riding a horse named Khyamm, is lost in the pack. Although he owns the track, he realises that he is slipping. The fans will murder him. Seeing me lying in a haymow with a pretty girl wearing a sarong, he dismounts and asks "Is that Timothy or Alfalfa?" I told him no, it was Dorothy

That brings us to the 18th tee of Wentworth Golf Course in Merry England. I was over there to make "Road to Hong Kong" for Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, a United Artists' release, and keeping in condition with a bit of golf. As misfortune would have it, Crosby was there too. Caddying. What with raising a second family, he said he needed the money — for face lifts, things like that.

Suddenly the frog starts singing a song called "Teamwork" by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn. It's a gay thing about friendship, teamwork and pulling together, about the "Roads" we'd travelled together. After a performance like that I couldn't say "no" to him. Besides, it turned out he owns a big piece of the picture.

That's why you'll be seeing him again in "Road to Hong Kong" with me and Joan Collins. You'll recognise him easily. He's the one in there stealing the money—and from me, as usual.

LAUNDRY

Because he was a lonely American, I took him into my home. The Hope family and the Crosby family shared a big manor house in the country near the studio. Believe me, it was nice having him around—to fetch golf balls, do the laundry, things like that. One day he took the laundry into a launderette and was back in ten minutes. "Washed already?" I asked, proud of his efficiency. "Nope," he said, in that cowboy drawl he learned on his Nevada ranch, "they refused it." I told him that it was a very funny gag. "Why don't you use it on your show?" he said. I did—but I didn't have the heart to tell him—30 years ago.

That's why he's famous for his relaxed manner. It's an act to hide the big joker inside. It's not true that he's unfriendly. If he looks at you blankly, as though you're zero, just think of the other zeros going through his mind — and the figures and commas and dollar signs to the left.

Salary is not important to him any more. "I'd rather have a good part any time," he says, meaning a good part of the profits.

In "Road to Hong Kong" we get shanghaied into outer space and land on a distant planet. It's supposed to be a gag, but the real reason is that Bing is looking for more property to buy and having two families of children, it's not a bad idea. A one man population explosion like that owes something to the rest of us.

Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Joan Collins look dubious about their hair-raising adventures in "Road to Hong Kong." Bing certainly has found a dubious hat.

and grew. Over the years, with compound interest and investment in oil wells, gadgets and orange juice, it became Fort Knox—the U.S. gold depository.

Meantime, Harry Lillis Crosby, feeling that he should be thankful for his good fortune, developed an emotional frog in his throat. The frog learned to sing. It sold millions of gramophone records and, despite the big ears of its owner, became a star of films and radio and a sportsman.

Which brings us to the five-furlong

Lamour. Seeing his sad plight, I agreed to say a few words with him to the crowd before the microphone. The crowd loved me. A Hollywood producer was there. He asked me if I'd like to do a picture called "Road to Singapore."

HITCH-HIKED

"Of course we would," Crosby said, cutting himself in. He's been cutting himself in ever since. He and the frog hitch-hiked with Dottie and me through five more "Road" films.



I recently recieved a letter from keen member Ian Arnott with an ingenious suggestion for advertising for new members - his idea is briefly this;... fifty two members to volunteer to pay the cost of one weeks advert in one of the 'musical weeklies' - this would see us through a whole year. I won't comment on this, could be taken the wrong way but if you agree with Ian, drop me a line.

Ian also came up with a great idea for a top Crosby TV show which would feature Perry Como and Rosemary Clooney as guest stars - to put the show in sequence would take up too much space, suffice to say it looked good, and as Bing does read our mag, we do try to plant some seeds'.

A general theme of many letters recieved is the wish that Bing would make a musical featuring some real Crosby songs. This has been a regular idea of mine, but rightly or wrongly I feel that Bing himself depreciates his voice too much these days, as is far too immodest.

But who of us can doubt that he is still better than most after listening to the vocals on HOLIDAY IN EUROPE - HOW THE WEST WAS WON and the Sing a long albums. I would like to suggest a friendly letter to Bing with a petition of names of all the clubs members - personal signatures only appended to the letter, this may help to stir the champ to give at least some thought to this.

Next topic - - - and back to those requests to BDC for Bing discs and films - when will we ever see one? - there are not many of us left, but let those of us who are make our prescence felt more. Bang in at least one request a week, I never fail, but I guess they know me too well, so please lend a hand.

"Genuinely upset" those are the only words I can find to describe the long awaited Wembley TV Show, and I can only add if we are fortunate enough to see any more Bing TV Specials, I hope they ARE NOT ON ITV - the way they presented that show was an insult to all the artists concerned.

"DEVILS ADVOCATE" Bing's much discussed film is I find, a very moving story after reading the book. With his great aptitude for these roles I would give Bing an even chance of winning aother Oscar - could be with strong support.

Following Les Brice and his "Top Ten" Bing records, we print a further selection in this issue, but to me this is an impossible task, "Ten of Bing's best" Sorry - I just like em all, as Bob Hope says "I'll listen any time as long as Bing sings"

Now recently I had a lettet from Raymond Hull and he's told me that he would shortly be erasing the Crosby material he has from his tapes as they were no longer in demand - At my personal request he has now offered to keep his tapes on Bing shows intact for the time being and as he has some very god shows available and I would urge you to write me for Raymonds address and take advantage of his consession.

Now a breath of really good news. Ralph Harding, who needs no introduction, being one of the country's leading collectors, has kindly offered his home for a club meeting of London members on SUNDAY APRIL 28th. Ralph and his good wife have asked me to point out that the meeting would commence at 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. with the maxinum number of members being 10 plus 5 wives or girl friends.

continued on next page

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - February 7, 1963

Dear Frank;

You may like some souvenirs of our recent golf tournament, also some etchings by a wonderful actor, which I am sending you for the club.

Regards,

Larry

signed

LC:vs

Larry Crosby

=====

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Larry for this bumper package of souvenirs of a great event - included were Bing's personal invite to the tourney, a welcome to the Clanbake with tantalising menu and star line-up, a list of pairings and starting times of the daily event, with celebrities especially marked in red, and the magnificent 50 page programme. Plus four beautiful gold leaf etchings by Mr Lionel Barrymore.

All of these souvenirs are available for inspection by any of the club members who call at my home - I would like also to thank my local pal and fellow club member Dill Bell for making a wonderful job of providing frames for the gold leaf etchings, these now occupy leading places in our "Crosby Room" and are very eye catching indeed.

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"CROZTALK - conclusion

.....this they feel would be fair to the members who have to get home and to themselves to whom it would give a break at the end. I might add, I think so too. To save any worry or confusion I suggest that those wishing to attend, drop me a line and should the number exceed our hosts requirements, I'll just have to sort it out as best as I can.

Incidentally Ralph has suggested these meetings be held every three months so quite a number of us could meet at one time or another.

A recent letter from Priscilla Keornig gave details that Bing looked really well and enjoying his golf at Pebble Beach, also says Priscilla "I have spoken to Bing twice and had my picture taken with him".

I'd better wind up now, and I can hear Frank saying ("ABOUT TIME TOO")(you eavesdropper Jack, ha ha-Frank) Although I am only about halfway through these meanderings but I would like my last thoughts of this issue to go to Les Gaylor who I think has shown a fine spirit in carrying on in club matters these past few months.

More later - best to all, Jack

P.S. - All club members should now have a current membership card, if you hav'nt, let me know - also, all changes of address should be sent to me and not to Frank.

Looking back over past issues of the "POST" two notable things crossed my mind. The first is the vast improvement over the last few years in quality, and the second thing was the number of members who from time to time have given their "Top 10 Bing recordings". Any of you who have attempted this will know how difficult it is in leaving out the rest of your favourites. One of my "top ones" would have to be "DOWN BY THE RIVER" from the film "Mississippi". Here we are again, back to the days of the verse. Song writers wrote good lyrics, and crooners really sang the songs, so that everyone knew the words. The year was 1935 and the recording date was 21st February. The orchestra was that of Georgie Stoll and any collector new to Bing recordings can obtain this on BING I of Brunswick's "BING'S HOLLYWOOD" series. Not only will they have this song, but many more outstanding songs of this period.

NON COMMERCIAL CORNER

Recent information from our good friend Derek Parkes (who is still working overtime for a lot of us) has given me a clue as to the origin of a number of V Discs. Many of these originate from the Kraft shows, but also, as I have long suspected, some V Disc medley's have been edited from original medley's (do I make myself clear) -- Here are some examples.--

V Disc 557	DOWN BY THE RIVER	Origin-Kraft 18.I.45-Mississippi Medley.
"	ONLY FOREVER	Origin-probably-Rhythm on the river Medley.
"	ITS EASY TO REMEMBER	Origin-Kraft 18-I-45.Mississippi Medley.
V Disc 414	DOWN THE OLD OX ROAD	Origin-Kraft 11-I-45.College Humour
"	SOON	Origin-Kraft 18-I-45.Mississippi Medley.

Quite a number however appear to be untouched. For instance, "The Fleet's In" Medley (not a Bing film this one) On V Disc 729. However it would appear that there are two takes' of this, as the V Disc is slightly different to the one I know of dated 17.5.45. It is rather amazine, and exciting to think that after all these years it is quite possible that in the future, an almost complete Non-Commercial Discography maybe compiled.

SELWYN COX alias CASH MC CALL has a new M.D. over at Ember records, name of Bill Lerage - latest infor on Selwyn is that he was due to do a two session recording stint on March 18th and we can expect the L.P. in the very near future.

In the next issue of Crosby Post Ken Mc Manus starts a new and exciting series dedicated to the people who wrote Bing's songs over the years - Ken opens this great series with a full report on RALPH RANGER, the man behind such great classics as "PLEASE JUNE IN JANUARY" "LOVE IN BLOOM" "THE FUNNY OLD HILLS" etc etc etc.

Dear Members,

May I start off by giving my utmost thanks to all those who wrote me after of the recent sad loss of my daughter Julia. I am indeed most grateful as is my wife for your letters and even Bing himself sent his condolences, also saying he had just come out of hospital and was trying to catch up on his mail. You may wish to know that the last typing my daughter did for me was for the "Crosby Library" feature which appeared in the last issue of Crosby Post.

Well at last the Bing Crosby Show was shown on TV recently. This was most awaited, as for those of us who were privileged to see most of the telerccording, the atmosphere in the studios was most electric, noreso when Bing came round to speak and shake hands with us.

I enjoyed the transmission of this show, but not as much as I had hoped,, because the programme planners cut the show, even to deleting two terrific scenes altogether. These being where Bing met two London street buskers and sang with them. He was soon in trouble with the law and 'Policeman' Ron Moody 'booked' him from having no 'street singing licence'.

The cross talk between Bing and Ron Moody was really funny and the latter finally landed the former in a police court. This was also a great scene with Bing in fine voice singing to the jury "My fate is in your hands."

The 'splicing' of the show caused certain critics to 'pan' it and in their ignorance of what took place originally they sought to complain of the show. The trouble is that certain people have the tendency to expect super human things from Bing, because of his unparralled stature.

I'd really like Bing to appear at the London Palladium TV show just to show 'em - and they really do have the best microphone sound on this show. The response from the stand mikes being much better than the 'boom' microphones.

For those of you who like me really go for Bing's terrific 'Shell' TV jingle you may like to know that it will probably be on the following Sunday evenings around 9 to 9-30 pm. April 7th, Aug 25, Oct 20, Oct 6, Nov 3, Nov 17.

I note that several of you are really pleased with the "Lazy River" recording from the United Nations "All Star Festival L.P." This is a fine recording and was made in June 1960 for use on the Bing and Satchmo L.P. - It was given an MGM Matrix number of 60XY107. But owing to Louis Armstrong having recorded the song for another label. Project records of which Bing is part owner had to withdraw the tape, hence only 11 tracks on the original album. It was fortunate for us that the UN Album came along as we may have had to wait years for "Lazy River" if at all. As per usual, Billy May and his orchestra supply a very fine backing.

I myslef have followed the Michael Holliday series with great interest, he has sung exceedingly well and certainly kept the 'Bing flag flying' with the tribute to the Ol' maestro of several songs associated with him. Mike even had Bing's talking voice off as well.

I am very pleased to see that many of you have really gone overboard for the "Holliday In Europe" L.P. most of these tracks were done by Bing at the Radio Recorders studios in Hollywood.

Les continues on page 16

.... they are nicely recorded as are the songs on the Warner Bros L.P. "I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" which was recorded at the same studios.

Of late I have managed to get a few 'Ding' letters in the New Record Mirror and these brought me much mail from many readers who are dead keen Bing fans, yet not members of our Society. This proves that the Crosby readership of this paper is pretty strong.

A number of you have written to me about your wish that Bing would make more singles' - and that you feel he could do well with them, well, I wish the same myself, but I had a word with Bing over more releases and he reckons himself that singles' are out for him and there isn't sufficient call for them. He also said he'd make more albums if the demand was there. He amused me with a crack that people don't want his records so much these days and that it is a very costly business making L.P.'s and then you have to sell them to one of the big companies for release and they also want to make things pay.

On a previous occasion, at the Savoy hotel, London, he said the first "Join Bing and Singa Long" L.P. had enjoyed great sales in the USA and so had the "How The West was Won" two L.P. set, so successful were these latter two records that the making of the film of the same name was the outcome.

Another point is that Bing appears to get to the recording studios just when he feels like it, hence the pre-recording of the basic track, musical backings beforehand, these are played over to Bing who listens carefully, then the next time they are played he dubs his voice onto the tape and the finished product is in the can in no time.

No one as yet seems to have decided to issue any of the Bing/Buddy Cole recordings from CBS Radio so I'll have a go at U.S. Decca over the matter once again.

Well friends I will close once again and my many thanks to all of you and I hope 1963 brings the Bing quota of records we all want - - - Keep those request cards rolling in, I've just had "The Possibilities There" played on the BBC West Region programme "Good Morning". Sincerely yours..... Les Gaylor

presenting..."PRESS CUTTINGS" snipped out by John Maughan

This months press cutting comes from Pictergoer dated May 1 - 1954

Back in 1927 a young American composer jotted down a song that became pretty important to a little known singer with Paul Whitemans Rhythn Boys. The composer; Sam Coslow. The song "Just One More Chance" which really put Bing Crosby on the musical map. He sang it in the 1931 film (Mack Sennett short) of the same name, the disc has sold more than a million copies. Coslow wrote other Bing film hits - "Thanks" "The day you came Along" "Learn to Croon" are three. You see, Sam-short for Samson -Coslow is a strong man at ringing the Hit Parade bell. He's credited with six hundred songs, has written the scores for more than 50 films. But from songwriter he turned producer and won an academy award for his 1944 MGM short "Heavenly Music.

presenting a selection of your
top favourites 'a la Crosby'

Edward Burnell, 529 High Rd, Wembley, Middlesex;

- (1) "Just a little lovin'" (2) "And the angels sing"
(3) "It's the talk of the town" (4) "Blues skies"
(5) "Blue prelude" (6) "Bells of St Mary's" (7) "Prairie land
lullaby" (8) "Young and healthy" (9) "Little drummer boy"
(10) "I kiss your hand madame" (Brunswick)

Betty Hale, 29 Well Terr, Heybridge, Malden, Surrey.

- (1) "Moonlight bay" (2) "South rampart st parade" (3) "Jin, Johnny
and Jonas" (4) "Ya'll come" (5) "Eileen" (6) "Janboree Jones"
(7) "My Isle of golden dreams" (8) "Isle of Innisfree" (9) "My
little buckaroo" (10) "Changing partners"

Dill Hall, 22 Park Rd, Gateshead, Co Durham.

- (1) "Wrap you troubles in dreams (1931)" (2) "Where the blue of
the night" (3) "Gone fishin'" (4) "I kiss your hand madame"
(5) "Home on the range" (6) "Samantha" (7) "I found a million (1931)
dollar baby" (8) "White Christmas" (9) "Dinah" (1931 Version)
(10) "The friendly mountains"

Mary Hughes 84 Hartington Rd, Manchester 14

- (1) "Adeste Fidelis" (2) "White Christmas" (3) "How deep is the
ocean" (4) "Go on Earrings" (5) "I wish I were Aladdin"
(6) "Flores Negras" (7) "Quicksilver" (8) "The breeze and I"
(9) "The song is you" (10) "That old black magic"

This feature will be continued in the next Crosby Post with a
further selection of members 'Top Ten's'

The following most encouraging letter was received by Les Gaylor
from the President of Warner Bros Records USA Mr John K Maitland

February 7, 1963

Dear Mr Leslie;

Thank you very much for your nice letter complimenting us on our
Bing Crosby recording of "I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" We, too,
think it is a beautiful album, and wish along with you that it
were possible to issue more Bing Crosby recordings. Unfortunately
we do not have an exclusive recording contract with Mr Crosby,
but when we do have the opportunity to again record him, we will
certainly give consideration to your very fine suggestions for
album material and the use of Buddy Cole as his accompanist.

Again, our thanks for taking time out to write to us - its always
a pleasure to receive such a complimentary letter

This month, the trend is almost 100% 'Singalong' and first, for those of you, who like me, may have missed out on the current list of Decca E.P.'s in this series, here is the list of those now available; All on the Warner Bros label;

WEP 6050 (m) Take me out to the ball game; Meet me in St.
WSEP2050 (s) Louis; Peggy O' Neil; K.K.K.Katy; Mairzy Doats;
Old MacDonald; Doodle doo doo; All I do is
dream of you; Alice Blue Gown; I Love you truly;
When I grow too old to dream;

WEP 6100 (m) Vol 2; Daisy bell; The bowery; After the ball;
WSE 6100 (s) Long long ago; On the banks of the wabash; I was
seeing nellie home; Aura Lee; Cuddle up a little
closer; Shoo fly; Oh dem golden slippers; On the
road to Mandalay

WEP 6103 (m) Vol 3; Hot time in the old time tonight; Toot
WES 6103 (s) toot tootsie; Ta.ra.ra.boom.ed.ay; Good bye my
lady love; Linger awhile; The gang that sang
heart of my heart; Give my regards to Broadway;
Mary's a grand old name; You're a grand old flag;
When you wore a tulip; You were meant for me;

and next we have a brand new Singalong album from Warner
Bros, with the infectious title "Bing Crosby On The Happy
Side"

Bing continues his very popular series by including the
following songs on his new album; "Darktown strutters ball;
Singing in the rain; Around her neck she wore a yellow
ribbon; My little grass shack; Me and my shadow; Five foot
two; eyes of blue; Marching along together; Should I; Blue
Moon; Cecilia; side two Give me a little kiss; When the red
red robin starts bob bob bobbin along; Loveliest night of
the year; Don't sit under the apple tree; Pony boy; The man
on the flying trapeze; Billie boy; A tisket a tasket;
Forever and ever;

My favourites are "Darktown strutters ball" this brought
memories back of the great scene in 'Little Boy Lost'
'My little grass shack; Five foot two; and A tisket a tasket.
I was dissatisfied with "Cecilia" which to me seemed to lack
the 'punch' which our own Black and White Minstrel's give it.
All in all, it's a great album, but to be quite honest, I'd
much rather have Bing in solo style;

Finally, I must mention the Bing/Louis Armstrong song on the
"All Star Festival L.P. title is "Lazy River" and it's a
terrific duet by the incomparable twosome; With its current
high placing in the best selling L.P. charts it will do much
to redeem Bing in the eyes of people who were so dissatisfied
at his poor showing in the Wenbley TV show and also offer
great support to the worthy cause of THE WORLD'S REFUGEE'S

Here as promised is the result of our last raffle; -
 1st prize; Bing's Golden circle badge; Mrs Betty Hale;
 2nd prize; Phillips E.P. "Bing" (donated by Les Brice)
 this goes to Mr Ron Chalmers;
 3rd prize; 5 mint Bing 78's; Miss Madge Holne

Actually the second ticket drawn was that of our good friend Vera Roberts, but Vera's instructions were that if she won 2nd or 3rd prize we had to tear here ticket up and re-draw for that prize. And now for this months raffle;

1st Prize; The complete set of actual sleeves on "Bing's Hollywood" front part only - great souvenir value;
 donated by Frank Murphy;
 2nd prize; Small parcel of 5 mint Bing 78's;

Tickets price 1/- each are available direct from Jack Manners
 closing date is May 25th;

"AMERICAN NEWS LETTER" airmailed over by our on the spot
 correspondent - PAT SULLIVAN.

Dear Frank,

There isn't much of importance for a letter this month but I think the enclosed article "Bing and I" by Kathryn Crosby from the current issue of "Good Housekeeping" will fill the gap.

Bing took an active part in his Golf Tourny this year and then he checked into hospital for another kidney operation. He is now recuperating at home in Los Angeles;

Taped in advance, he appeared on Dinah Shores TV show on Feb 17 and I thought he was just marvelous on the program. He soloed "In a little Spanish town" and joined Dinah on several lively duets and medleys.

My next newsletter will come from San Francisco or the nearby area. A friend and I leave for California on March 13th and I hope that this time it will be a permanent change of address.

Best wishes to all the members - Sincerely - Pat;

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 The first instalment of the great article sent us by Pat will appear in the next issue of Crosby Post - Other highlights of the June issue will be "Bing With A Modern Swing" a great article by Crosby Post regular Ted Laker, and also two very fine articles by our New Malden reporter Ken Mc Manus titled "Thanks for the memory - A tribute to Ralph Rainger" and a very informative article titled "The Hit Parade"

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following donations to club funds; - Joan Walton 2/6; John Finan 2 Bing 78's; Mary Hughes 5/-; Les Brice 2/6; George Parker L.F. of The Dancing Years 10/-; Edward Burnell 5 Bing 78's; Frank Hatwell 5/-;

 send your requests now to BBC and R Lux' for "Bing on the happy Side"

WHEN I was asked to write a piece about my old friend, Bob Hope, it looked like a good way to get some things said without being interrupted by his wisecracks. I would be able to criticise and appraise the ham on the hoof. Say anything I wished. Call a spade a shovel, or hew the mark and let the chips fall where they would.

Then I heard that he was invited to scribble something about me, too, not knowing, of course, that he can't write anything but the "x" he signs to his oversized paycheck. There are laws against libel and Hope's just the kind who'd try to make money that way. Therefore I decided to write only the truth—aware, naturally, that the truth would hurt most.

To start, he's not even Bob Hope. It's Leslie Townes Hope. His defence of this will be that I'm Harry Lillis Crosby, not Bing, but my nickname came honestly. I certainly didn't go through the phone book looking for names like Pack East, which he used once as an amateur boxer. Later he became known as Rembrandt Hope—he was on canvas so much. When fans asked him how his boxing career was coming, he'd say, "Three and three."

"Won three and lost three, you mean?" they asked.

"No," he explained. "Knocked out three times. Didn't show up three times."

Thus he began his acting career in a horizontal position.

LIVE FISH

Now he's right back there. Getting along in years. We have to let him take things easy. However, in "Road to Hong Kong" for United Artists release, he makes use of all his acting talents. He pulls Joan Collins and me in a rickshaw, flies with an outboard motor strapped to his back, swallows live fish and rolls his eyes at the usual quota of cuties. On good days he even sings and dances. Altogether the same versatile performer he was 21 years ago when we first started these "Road" pictures.

Enough of Hope the cad—you want to hear about Hope, the man. What's he really like? What makes him tick besides adrenalin? What kind of golfer is he? What are his ambitions, his ethics, his bank balance?

I have worked in seven "Road" films with him. During filming of Panama and Frank's "Road to Hong Kong" the Crosby family shared a big house in the country with the Hope family. Working with him

21 YEARS OF HOPE

BY BING CROSBY

taught me one thing: Don't share a house with him. You could end up paying ALL the rent. Sharing a house with him taught me another: Don't work with him—unless your lawyer goes over the contracts. Actually I have a deep affection for old Ski Nose. You have to work with him and live with him, too. I'm never offended when he calls me Money Bags, Old

won't play until he gets them. When people ask him who wins when we play he says "The one who cheats the most." They think he's joking.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR

He makes losing money to him fun. If you're winning he resorts to psychological warfare, tries to unnerve you with seemingly innocent little remarks such as: "That never should have hooked into the rough. You followed through beautifully." Or



Bob Hope and Bing Crosby perform with their usual timeless versatility in this scene from the United Artists' production.

Flabby, the Groaner and such terms of endearment. But don't let him fool you about money. He's got treasury specimens that are out of print. When he pauses after telling a joke in that delayed-action timing of his it's not to cue the audience to laugh. He's counting the house to make sure the promoter doesn't short change him. The same with golf. He counts his score and wins on the first tee. With luck, I'm in the low 70's; he's about six strokes higher. But I can never beat him. He demands too many strokes,

"You were robbed on that putt. Your line on the break was perfect." Next thing you know you're concentrating on your follow through and your putting line when it's your left hand over-working.

He's a 100 per cent extrovert. Got to have an audience. If people don't come around he puts 'em on the payroll and orders them to come. I suspect that's why he saves his money. If the audience stops coming he'll probably make personal appearances and pay the people to laugh.